

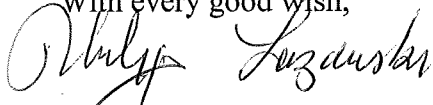
Dr. Philip Lazowski, Rabbi
15 Lewis Street, 5th Floor
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March 4, 2011

Chairmen Fleischmann and Stillman and members of the Education Committee,

I am Rabbi Philip Lazowski, one of the Senate Chaplains and a Holocaust Survivor. I am here to support House bill 6499, "An Act concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes". I understand language in this bill will now include that our state supports the option for our schools to teach Genocide education in addition to already the option to teach Holocaust education. Frankly, I would hope this committee, if not this year, will definitely look at the 5 states which mandate the teaching of Holocaust and Genocide education: Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Illinois. I do speak to many schools and firmly believe I leave students with not only the knowledge of what happened during this terrible time in our history, but also a message of hope, determination and how to live a good and meaningful life. If the state would make Holocaust education part of the curriculum in U.S. History, then I do believe a number of foundations will help to fund teacher training. The models of good curriculum already exist from the ADL and Facing History and Ourselves, some of these curriculums may even be downloaded at no cost to the teachers. In summary, I have seen low income and in some cases troubled students in Bloomfield schools: African Americans and Caribbean Americans benefit greatly from the teaching by Dr. Joe Olzacki in regards to the lessons of what happens to people when their identities are destroyed. I even have had mothers call me to tell me when I come to the school and speak and talk to students, her child has changed to a better student and better person. Thank you and I would be happy to answer questions.

With every good wish,



Dr. Philip Lazowski, Rabbi

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